

(WASHINGTON, DC) – At the request of Brazos County leaders, Congressman Chet Edwards is helping Brazos County improve public transportation and plan for the future under the 2011 Transportation Appropriations bill, which passed the House Thursday.

“Improving transportation in Brazos County will benefit the local economy, reduce congestion, and help address the needs of a growing community,” said **Edwards, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee**

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College Station Mayor Nancy Berry said, *“We’re very appreciative of Congressman Edwards and his efforts to improve transportation infrastructure and mobility in College Station and Brazos County. This funding will help us plan for future transportation needs.”*

Bryan Mayor Jason Bienski said he is pleased with the Congressman’s efforts to cultivate the quality of life in the Bryan-College Station community. *“As we continue to grow, we need to ensure that our infrastructure keeps up with the population. This is an important step toward improving mobility for our residents.”*

Specifically, Edwards won approval for \$150,000 for the Bryan-College Station Public Transportation Initiative. The Texas Transportation Institute recently completed a preliminary study interviewing entities throughout the area regarding the need to develop a community-wide Public Transportation program.

This funding will allow for the development of such a plan, including presentation of detailed routes, equipment requirements, headways, etc. It would also identify phasing options and facilities to be developed, as well as presenting funding options to operate and develop the system.

The bill must still pass the Senate, and be signed by the President.

At the request of local leaders, Edwards has already directed federal funds toward needed safety and congestion improvements on Barron Road and Old Reliance Road. Construction is underway at both roadways.